

lines, each chip section having bump electrodes formed simultaneously thereon, the scribe lines [being] for separating the chip sections from each other without dividing [the] bump electrodes thereon.

11. (Amended) A semiconductor wafer, including:

[having] a [number] plurality of chip sections defined thereon by scribe lines, each chip section having bump electrodes formed simultaneously thereon.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 23, line 2, delete "There is provided a" and insert --A--;

line 3, delete ". Chip" and insert -- includes defining chip--; delete "10a is defined";

line 4, delete "10", "13" and "10a";

line 5, delete "11" and "10";

line 6, delete "12";

line 7, delete "11" and "60";

line 8, delete "60";

line 9, delete "11";

line 10, delete "60";

line 11, delete "10a" and "64";

line 12, delete "12" and "60";

line 13, delete "66" and "64";

line 14, delete "70";

line 15, delete "66";

line 16, delete "10a";

line 17, delete "13" and "80".

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. In the January 3, 1997 Office Action for the above-identified application, the Examiner has issued a

restriction requirement under §121 between the inventions of Group I ("semiconductor device" claims 5, 10, and 11) and Group II ("method of making a semiconductor device" claims 1-4 and 6-9) of the application.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I (as currently defined by claims 5, 10, and 11) for prosecution on the merits. This election is made with traverse for the following reasons.

Specifically, the Examiner's position is that the inventions are separate and distinct for the reason that the semiconductor device of claims 5, 10 and 11 of Group I is not dependent upon the steps of the method of Group II, but instead may be produced by a process materially different from those of the Group I claims. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that each chip's bump electrodes may be formed independently.

The claims of each invention have been amended to make the inventions indistinct within the meaning of M.P.E.P. §806.05(f). Specifically, the claims of each invention recite that the bump electrodes are formed simultaneously on the respective apertures (or chips). Thus, the product is indeed dependent upon the steps of the method invention, and the inventions as now defined are indistinct within the meaning of M.P.E.P. §806.04(f) since the product as claimed cannot now be formed by a materially different process from the claimed method.

Thus, the inventions of Group I and Group II certainly are not separate and distinct, and contrary to the Examiner's assertion, distinct inventions are not being claimed within the meaning of M.P.E.P. §806.05(f).

Moreover, distinctness by itself is not sufficient to support restriction. M.P.E.P. §806 requires a showing of serious burden on the Examiner. The Examiner has made no such showing.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the Examiner's search with regard to both the invention I and II would be co-extensive (or at the very least partially co-extensive). As such, there would be no additional searching burden placed on the PTO in the examination of both the invention I and II

claims in the same application.

Further, even assuming, arguendo, that a slight, additional searching burden would be imposed upon the PTO if the invention I and II claims were examined in the same application, the burden on the Applicant would be much greater in terms of financial considerations, since a divisional application is costly, with the present filing, issue and full maintenance fees alone being nearly \$7,000. Thus, from a financial standpoint, Applicant's costs associated with filing and prosecuting an additional application clearly outweigh any inconvenience and additional costs (e.g., due to searching) incurred by the U.S.P.T.O. if claims 1-4 and 6-9 were to be examined in the same application. Compared to the burden on Applicant, the burden of such a search cannot be considered "serious".

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are earnestly and respectfully requested.

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

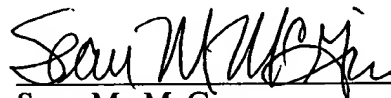
Minor errors have been corrected in the specification and Abstract. No new matter has been added.

Additionally, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the priority document and the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 25, 1995, and on January 8, 1997.

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



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